

In re:
International Appl. No.:
International Filing Date:
For:

Paul David Metcalfe
PCT/GB98/00863
March 20, 1998
"EXPANDABLE SLOTTED
TUBING STRING AND
METHOD FOR CONNECTING
SUCH A TUBING STRING"

Attn: DO/US

September 21, 1999

2/17/00
P.H.
4/A

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Abstract:

Please enter the attached Abstract.

In The Specification:

Please enter description page 1, as filed in the International Application with letter of July 8, 1999 (attached to Preliminary Examination Report).

In The Drawings:

Please enter drawing sheet 2/2, as filed in the International Application with letter of June 17, 1999 (attached to Preliminary Examination Report).

In The Claims:

Please enter the claims, pages 14 - 18, as filed in the International Application with letter May 27, 1999 (attached to Preliminary Examination Report), and amend as indicated below.

A 2 ~~pub~~ 61
3 (Amended) The assembly of claim 1 [or 2] wherein the intermediate portion is of corresponding configuration of the tubing lengths, such that the expansion characteristics of the connected tubing assembly are substantially constant over the connection.

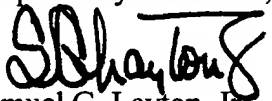
A 3
6. (Amended) The assembly of claim 1 [any of the preceding claims] wherein the connector end portions define grooves to receive corresponding tongues provided on the tubing length end portions.

A 4
9. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 7 [or 8], wherein the sleeve and the tubing lengths are each of substantially constant diameter along their length.

A 5
13. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 11 [or 12], wherein the strips are initially circumferentially connected by frangible links.

The above amendments should now place this application in proper form for filing in the U.S. Patent Office.

Respectfully submitted,


Samuel G. Layton, Jr.
Registration No. 22,807

ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Post Office Drawer 34009
Charlotte, NC 28234
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 331-6000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 334-2014

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

"Express Mail" mailing label number EL287630192US
Date of Deposit September 21, 1999

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box PCT, Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, DC 20231.


DENISE REAVES

ABSTRACT

A'
An expandable tubing assembly comprises a tubular connector (16) defining overlapping longitudinal slots (18), the connector (16) comprising end portions (20, 21) and an intermediate portion (22). The slots (18) extend over the whole length of the connector (16), but the only slot overlap occurs in the intermediate portion (22). The assembly further comprises lengths of expandable tubing (24, 25) defining overlapping longitudinal slots (12) and having end portions defining nodes (38) between and beyond the ends of the tubing slots (12). Tubing threads (28, 29) are formed on the end most tubing nodes. The connector end portions define threads (26, 27) and are coupled with the threads (28, 29) formed on the nodes of the respective end portions of the tubing lengths.
